

PROTECTION FOR MOTHERS

By Gerda L. Cohen

THE Maternity Protection Convention adopted by an I.L.O. conference in 1919 marked the beginning of social reform culminating for this country in the Women's Labour Bill which has passed its first reading in the Knesset and is now being studied in committee. The Minister of Labour, Mrs. Golda Myerson, made it clear that the new law did not depart in essence from the Maternity ordinance of 1948 which in turn was derived from principles ratified by the I.L.O. Convention.

Two main articles characterized the 1919 charter: any woman employed in industry or commerce should be entitled to leave her job six weeks before confinement, and compelled to rest for six weeks after. The employer must not dismiss her during that period, and must also allow her daily nursing-time after her return to work. The second important provision, which forms the main difference between the Israel bill and the I.L.O. Convention, laid the responsibility for motherhood benefits either on public funds or on insurance schemes. Cash benefits to enable a "full and healthy maintenance of mother and child" were in no case to be demanded of the employer. Mrs. Myerson emphasized that the proposed Israel law, which directly contravenes this principle, would stand only until a National Insurance Bill had transferred all such social benefits from private to State administration.

Dismissal Illegal

How does Israel legislation on this subject in force or proposed, compare with that of other countries? In 1919, women employees were safeguarded against losing their job during child-birth in six countries only: today, dismissal is illegal in 41 States. Whereas in 1919 only nine countries provided maternity benefits, today compulsory social insurance shoulders this task in 40 States. Confinement leave varies from six to 13 weeks in all countries, and from half to all the worker's wages are paid as maternity benefit throughout this period.

Individual countries reflect their own peculiar traits, economic or political: in the U.S., for example, extraordinarily backward federal legislation is compensated for, partially, by the provisions made by the Trade Unions. Only six American States prohibit women from working before and after confinement without at the same time guarding them against dismissal; but in only one State are women engaged to maternity benefits.

On the other hand, rail-road employees get paid leave for 16 weeks, and to site an extreme case, laundry-workers in Washington are forbidden to continue working after the fifth month of pregnancy.

In the United Kingdom, stress is laid on benefits rather than on any compulsory stoppage of employment. Medical aid is furnished through the National Health Service. No woman is compelled to cease work before her confinement, and the law prevents her return for only a month afterwards. But besides lump sum grant for each child, maternity allowances are paid 13 weeks. Mothers in the "People's Republic" in general enjoy a high degree of protection during pregnancy and delivery.

Oranges Make Wonderful Eating

By Molly Lyons Bar-Devid

JUST make wonderful eating fruit as they are — but then there are so many exciting ways of using oranges to enhance other dishes, too. I remember hurrying to school for this column by once giving a recipe calling for sliced oranges, sliced onions and black olives, all sprinkled with oil; but those who tried it admitted it was good after all. So here's another that tastes as good as it looks.

Orange-Cheese Salad
3 large oranges, 3 small grapefruit, 1 pkg. 1st cottage cheese, 1 green pepper, mint leaves, mayonnaise, lettuce.
Peel similar sized oranges and grapefruit. Combine cheese with chopped pepper and mayonnaise and place a mound on lettuce. Now put the segment of orange and grapefruit around the mound of cheese in alternate colors, leaving a mosaic of the cheese on the top. Garnish with a sprig of mint.

Everyone, of course, loves fruit salads, and with bananas available now you can make a wonderful mixture with oranges, grapefruit, pears, bananas and wine. But in doing so, be sure to cut off the white pulp of the fruit or your salad may be bitter. Make baskets out of the orange peel and fill them with salad: your dessert becomes twice as pretty and much more interesting.

Ever think of serving your salad as a separate course after the main dish? If you do, you'll find that oranges blend beautifully with many dressings, to make a delicate refresher.

after confinement. Factories employing a large number of women are obliged to maintain a canteen.

Where maternity benefit is the responsibility of the employer, contrary to the I.L.O. Convention, the value of women on the labour market decreases sharply; the number of women factory-workers has gone down in India, and employers in Iran and China are unwilling to take on female labour.

I.L.O. Revisions
Some months after Israel's bill was drafted, an I.L.O. conference at Geneva revised the 1919 Maternity Protection Convention on the recommendation of the W.H.O. as a result of the entry of women into a great range of professional, recommendations of the compulsory leave, while leaving the total 12 holiday period unchanged, was restricted to post-confinement and exceptions were made in the case of non-industrial and agricultural employees. Some of these changes were already embodied in Israel's new Labour Bill, which also contains a ban on overtime after the sixth month of pregnancy, and provisions in the event of miscarriage — both advances on the I.L.O. code.

But Israel employers continue to bear a heavy burden: the amount of their contribution — 75 per cent of wages for eight weeks — has been increased by another fortnight at the same percentage. A hard-headed businessman might well choose to pay a I.L.O. fine for dismissing an expectant mother rather than pay for the maintenance of mother and child. The new bill therefore confers a doubtful benefit on working women, so long as a manager may have to give three months holiday-with-pay to an employee only six months on his pay-roll.

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LONDON'S LATEST

Drawings by FROMENTI



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Freshening the Remnants

By Judith Eshet

IN the good old times when I knitted and sewed still retained, a woman could turn up at a party in any old rag and feel virtuous and law-abiding about it. But now that practically everything is available again, most women feel they must buy something new or lose their self-respect. This is not a very sensible attitude, considering prices in relation to the average income — but most of us have been so disgustingly sensible for nearly three years that a desire to freshen up the tattered remnants of our wardrobe is at least understandable.

The most troublesome question, of course, is: where do I start? Different ways of life demand different clothes. The teacher or the typist quite naturally devotes much thought and most of her clothing budget to working clothes. She tries to look as neat, tidy and attractive as possible all day long and doesn't only dress up on special occasions. She therefore looks and feels more "at home" in party clothes than the average housewife. Her posture has not been spoiled by the continuous wearing of slippers or down-trodden shoes; she is used to wearing a girdle and breathes and moves as naturally in a silk dress as she does in a wool skirt; she is more skilled in the art of applying make-up and does not have to struggle when she goes out with a stiff, unfamiliar hair-do.

Bad Policy

For these reasons, I believe it to be bad policy to wear any old thing at home, to go without a trace of make-up and never to buy special working clothes for the house. It is equally bad policy to spend a lot of money on one special dress to be worn two or three times a year, which is bound to be out of fashion before it has been worn half a dozen times. And if that special dress happens to be of the shoulder or strapless, it will take quite a number of "wearing hours" to get used to it. Any woman who wears that kind of a dress for the first time can't help wondering when the darned thing is going to slip down, and unless she has worn it for quite a while at home prior to her first

public appearance, the party will be spoiled for her — but good! Generally speaking, only a woman who can wear a strapless dress without embarrassment or self-consciousness during the day — many simple summer dresses are strapless now — should attempt it for evening wear. Modesty cannot be thrown overboard for one evening and a high-necked dress can be as elegant as a low-necked one.

Probably the worst pitfalls for the woman with a limited clothing allowance are "the season's most fashionable colour" and "the little dress." Unfortunately, the only accessories that match a purple or mustard yellow wood-dress are alligator pumps, an alligator purse and a mink cape. The dress might look stunning in a shop window and matching plastic or nylon purses are going to "kill" it. I know, I know, it takes considerable strength of character to stick to one basic colour scheme — like black-grey-white or brown-beige-red — but the result is worth while. As for the "simple black dress" that takes you everywhere: unless you have genuine jewellery, good costume jewellery or a variety of silk and taffeta scarves that simple black dress is going to look just simple and hopelessly dull.

More Pitfalls

Another pitfall for the budget-woman is the "tailor-made dress." It took six years of acute discomfort and three expensive mistakes to convince me that I just could not wear a tailor-made even if it is a "must" for every woman. If you have the same feeling about tailor-mades, don't wait for six years and even two mistakes: strike the item off your purchasing list right now. If you have a reasonably well assorted wardrobe otherwise, I bet you won't ever miss it. A tailor-made does not only require a special kind of figure, it also requires a certain mental make-up and temperament. Let's deal with the figure first: the well-cut tailor-made does not take kindly to letting out or taking in. Once you start changing it, it never looks the same again. So unless you are one of the girls who stick to the same vital statistics

Handy Hints

TAKING CARE OF CLOTHES

1. Remove all stains at once, as they usually come out fairly easily before they are set.
2. For grease, use a hot iron on a piece of clean white blotting — per placed over the stain. For all other stains try plain tepid water first, and then soap and water. If you still can't get the stain out, send the article to the cleaners, and put a note on it saying what the stain is.
3. Keep a lookout for loose buttons and other fastenings.

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Coronation Cloth

By Alison Settle

NEVER have the London dress collectors presented each half-year by the Incorporated Society of London Fashion Designers been more polyglot, with almost any language to be heard but French predominating. French fashion writers have come over who had never imagined London dress designers to have imitated them. From many nations there is correspondence who tell that British fashion began and ended with tweed. Now they with a very big American audience know what Britain offers, have to be fitted into salons already overcrowded by the normal number of visitors.

The importance of these collections is that they are not only the first of the Coronation Year, but also of Lachance which Coronation on-line, for export or home, can be placed: the next showings will take place some weeks after the Coronation is over.

Americans Happy
The Americans are entirely delighted with what they have seen so far. They are pleased by the suits with their elegant smooth lines, parcel of all superfluity, slope-sheltered, close-fitted to the body, jacket bases curving in front, skirts showing fullness to the front in the form of pleats or folds. The French, too, praise these suits without stint: they commend particularly Victor Striebel, Hardy Amies and Cavanagh. But M. de Lachance, praised by trans-Atlantic buyers as the leading creative spirit in the London group, is considered by some French critics as less severe, and less English than the others — a criticism that might well be met with the response that, like Digby Morton, he is in fact Irish and not English.

The grandeur of the evening dresses overwhelms most observers, and the beauty of the gold and silver run broadens in palest colourings, some designed by Mr. Oliver Messel, others by Mr. Miki Miki, but all woven in the West of England mills, have started Continental observers who have never before imagined England capable of such exquisite designs and restrained colour sense.

The greatest possible concessions are made to practicality in day clothes. Add-and-subtract wardrobes are to be found in most collections, dresses being given two entirely different aspects with two bodies, worn one over the other or either alone. Peter Russell makes jacket-like tops to day dresses and puts below what he calls "bodices," which are sleeveless, low-cut bodices with narrow shoulder straps. Digby Morton does not separate skirt and bodice but offers "slip dresses," tops, slim affairs, under blouse-like bodices, boleros, or the brief and almost straight "match-box jackets" which are having a great vogue in America.

Add and Subtract

These two (under and over) bodices bridge the gap in acceptance of the trend for very low-cut décolletages for day-time, replicas of what has so far been worn only for sun-bathing and on the beach. They make it possible for a woman, wearing the same ensemble, to be well-dressed from the time when she starts out in the morning until she dines at a restaurant or visits the theatre.

Fashion Exports

AN extensive collection of Israeli fashion goods, produced by about 30 members of the Union of Israeli Fashion Industries, will soon be shipped to America to be displayed in country-wide fashion shows sponsored by the Zionist Organization of America. The buyers of leading department stores and fashion houses will be invited to these displays in order to help Israel's fashion industry obtain export orders.

The Israel public will have the opportunity of seeing the samples designed for America at a fashion show which is to be held on February 25 at the ZOA House in Tel Aviv. The models are for the local market.

EXCELLENT COOPERATION

The Tel Aviv Team-of-Four Tournament came to an end on Sunday, February 1st. The winners were: Forchheimer, Grill, Lipkowitz, Dr. Wantuch, Zuckerman — 17 points.

2. Z. Cohen G. Goldberg, Dr. Jackier, Moskowitz, Pehor — 16 points.

3. Bliski, Burman, Eilenberg, Goldetz, Grunberger — 15 points.

We reproduce hereunder an interesting freak played during the last round.

South was dealer at game to his side. It will be seen that he is posed a problem right at the start. His side is vulnerable, the opponents are not. A preemptive call of four hearts cannot come to great harm; but there might be a slam. Such a slam again will easily be foiled by the opposing team in view of the vulnerability situation.

Only three of the twelve contending North-South pairs managed to buy the hand in a hearts contract; the other East-West pairs properly saved in spades, going even up to seven

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